

REMARKS

This reply is responsive to the Office Action of November 19, 2003. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 6-11 stand allowed.

Claim 2 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippiatt (U.S. Patent No. 4,438,980).

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lippiatt in view of Oberthur (U.S. Patent No. 3,744,507).

The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References

Claim 1 recites a valve member having a first portion and a second portion forming an interference fit with the first portion. Lippiatt discloses a valve member **33** having a second portion (i.e., the non-referenced member that the spring **39** engages) that sealingly engages a bore. However, the valve member **33** sealingly moves in a piston **26** (see col. 2, lines 64-65).

Applicants point out that Lippiatt fails to disclose an interference fit between the second portion of the valve **33** and the bore. More specifically, an interference fit is not suggested by a mere sealing engagement between the second portion of the valve **33** and the bore. Additionally, a stop (e.g., the non-referenced member at the top of the

second portion of the valve member 33) that extends from the piston 26 suggests that the second portion of the valve 33 moves within the bore and is prevented from moving beyond the stop. Therefore, there is no interference fit between the second portion of the valve 33 and the bore.

Similarly, Oberthur fails to disclose an interference fit as recited in **claim 1**.

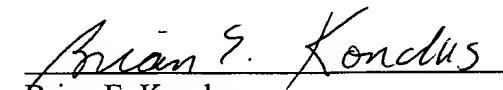
As discussed above, neither Lippiatt nor Oberthur discloses, or is concerned with, an interference fit as recited in **claim 1**. Therefore, **claim 1**, along with **claims 2-5** which depend therefrom, are patentable over the combination of Lippiatt and Oberthur.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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